

SECRET

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION
PERSON UNIT NOTIFIED HR70-14

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AC: _____

FILE, VR

FE4, FE1

DO52, DO8

ACTION NO.

823

DDP, OGC2

ADDP, FE1

DO4

FE1/DO4

~~SECRET~~ 061035Z JAN 72 CITE VIENTIANE 49980

DIRECTOR INFO *[Redacted]*

ADMIN *[Redacted]*

REF: *[Redacted]*

6293

1. THE SEARCH FOR C-123 NO. ~~YWOE~~ WAS CONTINUED FOR FIVE DAYS IN THE AREA OF HIS DESTINATION AND ALONG ALL POSSIBLE ROUTES THAT HE COULD HAVE FLOWN BASED ON EXISTING WINDS AT THE TIME WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. THE SEARCH WAS THEN DISCONTINUED AWAITING CONTACT WITH A VILLAGER FROM THE HONG SA (QB 4580) AREA WHO REPORTED SEEING AN AIRCRAFT FLY OVER HIS RICE FIELD DURING THE TIME FRAME THAT C-123 NO 6293 DISAPPEARED. THE VILLAGER WAS BROUGHT TO XIENG LOM (LS-69A) 4 JAN FOR DEBRIEFING. HE SEEMED CONFUSED ABOUT TIME, LOCATIONS AND DIRECTION BUT WAS CERTAIN A LARGE AIRCRAFT WITH ONE WING ON FIRE OVERFLEW HIS RICE FIELD. ON 5 JAN THE VILLAGER WAS GIVEN A PORTER OVERFLIGHT OF HIS RICE FIELD IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH THE EXACT POSITION WHERE THE AIRCRAFT WAS OBSERVED AND PLOT THE DIRECTION OF FLIGHT. THE VILLAGER CONTINUED TO BE CONFUSED AND VERY LITTLE WAS GAINED FROM THE EFFORT. HOWEVER, TWO AIRCRAFT SEARCHED THE AREA IN THE

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VICINITY OF THE RICE FIELD AND THE SURROUNDING AREA WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS AND THE SEARCH WAS AGAIN DISCONTINUED.

2. NO RECOVERY OF CREW. PASSENGERS NOT INVOLVED.

3. NO SALVAGE OPERATIONS AS WRECKAGE NOT LOCATED.

4. SEARCH HAS BEEN PUBLICIZED WITH REFERENCES THAT CHICOMS MAY HAVE SHOT AT AIRCRAFT FROM THEIR ROAD POSITIONS IN LAOS.

5. CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO POSSIBLE LEAFLET DROPS IN CERTAIN AREAS OFFERING A REWARD FOR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MISSING C-123. GP-1

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